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Sanborn Supports Local Use of State Communication Towers

'Macomb Residents Will Benefit from Improved Safety' says Senator

(LANSING) – Legislation authorizing local public safety agencies to utilize state-owned communications towers emerged from the Senate Judiciary Committee, with the support of Senator Alan Sanborn, today.

“The communications tower system currently operated by the State Police cost more than \$200 million to build,” Sanborn said. “Allowing local government to use the existing system without interfering with the integrity of its operations will not only help them save a significant amount of money, but it will also help to improve public safety levels in our communities and neighborhoods.”

Senate Bill 293 requires the director of the Michigan Department of State Police to allow any governmental public safety agency to use the communications system, including attaching public safety communications equipment to existing towers.

The director could deny permission to install or attach local government public safety equipment to a tower, if that installation or attachment would interfere with the communications system’s optimum operation.

The level of optimum operation is determined by the Michigan Public Safety Communications System advisory board and the Department of Management and Budget.

The legislation now heads to the full Senate for consideration.